

Message Text

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12

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 TRSE-00 EB-05 COME-00 L-03 PA-02

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-03

COA-01 /038 W

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R 210831Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1240

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

COMUSJAPAN FUCHU

CG USARBCO FORT BUCKNER OKINAWA

CG MARCORBASE CAMP BUTLER OKINAWA

CG 313TH AD KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA

COMFLEATS OKINAWA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD HONOLULU

USIA WASHDC FOR ICS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA 486

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, PINT, JA, MARR

SUBJ: POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF OKINAWA EXPO 75.

REF: NAHA 479(NOTAL), TOKYO 15097 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. OKINAWA LEADERSHIP NOW APPEARS TO BE LEANING
TO AGREEMENT ON POSTPONEMENT OF EXPO 75 FOR NINE MONTHS OR A YEAR.
GOJ MISSION ARRIVING TO SEEK OUT LOCAL CONSENSUS OF VIEWS FOR

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FORMAL GOJ DECISION. IN GENERAL , POSTPONEMENT PROBABLY IN
U.S. MILITARY INTERESTS ON ISLAND. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE STILL REMAINS A CONSIDERABLE DIVERSITY OF
VIEWS, THE SENIOR LOCAL BUSINESS AND POLITICAL LEADERS HERE NOW
SEEM TO BE REACHING A ROUGH CONSENSUS ON AGREEMENT TO A POSTPONE-
MENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL OCEAN EXPOSITION FROM THE SCHEDULED
MARCH 1975 OPENING TO A YEAR OR NINE MONTHS LATER. THE FEELING
SEEMS TO BE THAT THIS WOULD PARTIALLY MEET REFORMISTS OBJECTIONS
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AND ALSO ALLOW A LESS FRANTIC CONSTRUCTION EFFORT ON BOTH THE

EXPO SITE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ON THE ISLAND. SOME, HOWEVER, SUCH AS THE HOTEL OWNERS AND THE HEAD OF THE EXPO ORGANIZATION ITSELF, ARE CALLING FOR HOLDING THE FAIR ON ITS PRESENT SCHEDULE.

3. GOVERNOR YARA MET IN TOKYO NOV 19 WITH MITI MINISTER NAKASONE TO DISCUSS THE GOJ REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF EXPO BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT OIL CRISIS AND NEED TO HOLD DOWN GENERAL ECONOMIC DEMAND. YARA TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE GOJ IS ANXIOUS TO ACCORD WITH OKINAWAN WISHES IN REGARD TO THIS AND THAT OKINAWA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY VICE MINISTER KATO WILL ARRIVE IN NAHA NOV 22 TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WITH OKINAWAN CIRCLES. ON THE BASIS OF KATO'S RECOMMENDATIONS, GOJ WILL MAKE A FORMAL DECISION, WHICH, IF IT IS FOR A CHANGE IN SCHEDULE, WILL BE PUT TO THE BUREAU INTERNATIONAL D'EXPOSITIONS MEETING IN PARIS NOV 29. THE GOVERNOR STATED THAT THERE ARE ABSOLUTELY NO PLANS TO CANCEL OR

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REDUCE THE SCALE OF THE EXPO. INTERESTINGLY, THE LOCAL LEFTISTS, WHO HAVE BEEN CLAMORING AGAINST THE EXPO, ARE QUIET AT THIS MOMENT. YOSHIOKA (HEAD OF THE OKINAWA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY'S OKINAWA GENERAL AFFAIRS BUREAU IN NAHA) TOLD US HE FELT PRETTY CERTAIN THAT EXPO WOULD BE POSTPONED FOR NINE MONTHS OR A YEAR.

4. COMMENT. IF THE DECISION IS MADE TO POSTPONE THE EXPO, IT WILL PROBABLY BE TO THE BENEFIT OF OUR MILITARY INTERESTS ON OKINAWA ON THE WHOLE. THERE WILL BE SOMEWHAT LESS PRESSURE ON OUR CONTINUING NAVY AIR PRESENCE AT NAHA AIRPORT AND THE POSTPONEMENT WOULD MAKE A SMOOTHER PATH FOR THE P-3 CONSTRUCTION AT KADENA AND OUR MOVE OVER THERE. THE POSTPONEMENT WILL PROBABLY GENERALLY COOL OFF THE PRESENT PRE-EXPO HOTHOUSE OKINAWA POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION, RELAXING THE GENERAL PRESSURES ON OUR BASE PRESENCE ON THE ISLAND. THERE ARE A VARIETY OF PRACTICAL PROBLEMS AS WELL AS ADVANTAGES FOR THE AUTHORITIES AND BUSINESSMEN IN POSTPONEMENT, HOWEVER; SO IT IS PROBABLY TOO EARLY TO SAY A CHANGE IN SCHEDULE IS CERTAIN.

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